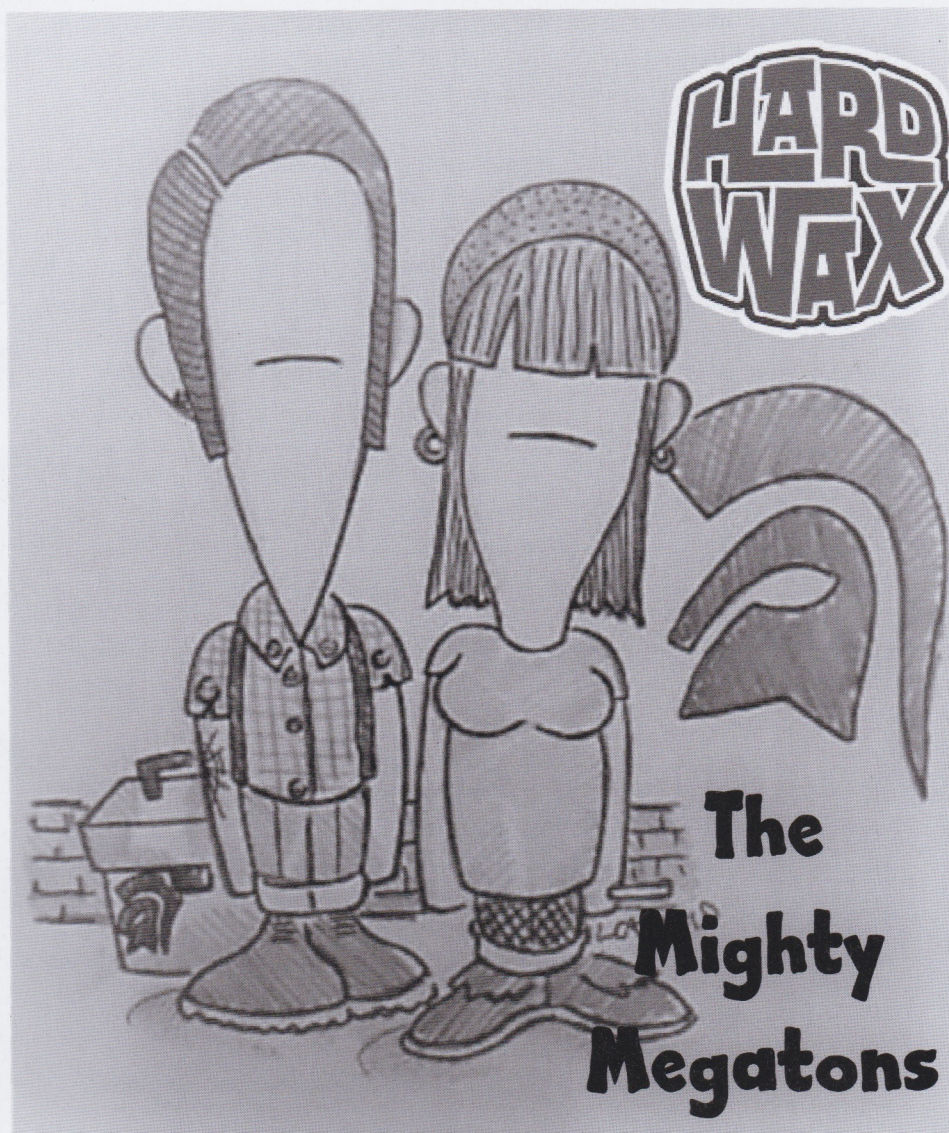


Spirit of 69

Skinzine issue 7



No 136 of 250



Spirit of 69

Welcome to the latest issue of Spirit of 69. Thanks to everyone who picked up issue 6, I really appreciate the support. This issue features interviews with two great bands, who are making an impact on their respective scenes. Hard Wax the Bovver Rock band are making waves, and from Spain, The Mighty Megatons, whose authentic sounds are kicking up a storm in Europe. Musical Biscuits is back this issue featuring Torpedo records, as well as news and reviews. Hopefully something for everyone.

It's funny how the skinhead scene is changing, with all these new groups appearing, selling badges and patches. I don't quite get it myself, but each to their own I suppose. A little more research on names may have been a good idea as one group has chosen the name of a very old TV programme which is also an old name from a Millwall firm, let's hope that doesn't end in tears. Social media is still fuelling changes within our scene, the old argument of I'll wear what I fucking like. It still doesn't sit well with me, it has to be within the parameters of the skinhead style, be it 60's, Two Tone or Oi. I don't care if your jeans are Levi or Primark, or if your shirt is Ben Sherman or warrior, they still fit within the style, but if I turned up at a do in a Nike hoodie and joggers I'm not respecting my scene. If I'm out jogging that's a different case. Not everyone can wear skinhead clothes all the time, those that do look good in them, I used to, but now my job dictates what I wear, although I still try and sneak part of the look in, be it a Fred Perry or a T-shirt. But if you're going to a skinhead do, reggae night or gig and call yourself a skinhead please wear the right clothes that are within the style or the Hybrids will take over.

I hope you enjoy the new issue and if you fancy contributing to the next one, drop us a line on the email below, via Facebook.

Thanks to...

**Laurence Cane Honeysett, Tom Boutwood, Hard Wax
Rudy King, Mighty Megatons, Marcia, Sue, Joe,
Michelle Young, Ric, Lee, Sean Flowerdew,
the Northern Belle, South coast Pirates.**

This issue dedicated to those who have kept the faith

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Word On the street



Sad news has reached us that the guitarist with the New Town Kings, has died after being hit by a car while having a cigarette outside a pub. 3 others were injured, one with life changing injuries. The driver of the car has been arrested and charged with suspicion of murder. The New Town Kings were the head line act at Skagate this year.

Two films have been released, one dealing with American Nazi skinheads and one called "Farming" which apparently is based on the Tilbury Skinheads. Once again this has brought skinhead into the media for totally the wrong reasons. The film features the Tilbury skins and a young Nigerian who joins them, it's meant to be based on a true story, but it's pure fiction.

The Sun ran an online article about Megan Merkle and her nights out in London, back before she was married to royalty. The Sun says "Her days of late nights out dancing may be over now she is a royal with a little one on the way - but Meghan Markle's favourite London nightclub is not what you'd expect. When just a tourist to the UK back in 2014, the Duchess of Sussex revealed that she liked to head to a famous "sweaty, grungy" Soho club filled with "red-lipped tough birds" that was where you came to "dance, not to be seen or to people watch". That "sweaty, grungy" Soho club, turned out to be Gaz's rockin Blues!

Novembers Scootering Magazine features a free Trojan ten track cover mount CD, called "Ska Jam". It's a corker and well worth tracking down.

While searching EBay as you do, a number of things caught my eye. A copy of Issue one of "Skins" fanzine from the 80's at a starting price of £150! An old "Oi! Oi!" t-shirt with a rip was also up for sale, these T-shirts were ten a penny back in the day and someone was trying to flog it for over 100 notes. It seems crazy, but did they sell?

The 40th Anniversary of Two Tone has turned out to be a bit of a damp squib. With The Specials playing a number of high profile gigs in Coventry, I was hoping that perhaps some of the other bands would join them and do a tour, but it was not to be. Magazine coverage was more about the Specials than Two Tone and Jerry seemed to be pushed out a bit. There was no new documentary, which was a shame. A single pack was released but this was over a 100 quid and with most already owning the majority of the tracks, it makes little sense splashing out. Madness have announced a gig in Camden where they played back in 1979, with ticket prices at £2.50, which was the original price. As with everything, they sold out fast and I've yet to hear if any of my Facebook friends got any. They are now being put out by ticket tout sites at 20 times the price.



**SPIRIT OF 69
TROJAN NEWS
November 2019**



After the 50th anniversary activities of 2018, it was always going to be a struggle this year for Trojan, in terms of new product and newsworthy events. But while the releases have been fewer and high profile, and live activity a little more low-key, things have nonetheless continued to be extremely busy behind the scenes.

It's a common knowledge that sales of physical product are at an all-time low, while streaming continues to attract new listeners, and the trend that has naturally affected the focus of all record labels, particularly those, like Trojan, whose primary purpose is to satisfy the demands of the serious music fan. To ensure our continued commitment to this aim, we've been working more closely than ever with companies with small overheads that specialise in producing limited runs of high-quality CD and vinyl product for the collector, with our primarily European partners being Cherry Red and Music on Vinyl. So, while 2020 will of course continue to see the creation of high-end titles on Trojan, the majority of releases comprising music from the catalogue will be issued through these affiliated companies under the supervision of the Trojan team.

And with the needs of devoted fans firmly in mind, work on finding and identifying the remainder of analogue master tapes, buried deep within the company's vast archive, with recent finds including some real surprises, not least a previously unissued album compilation from the Sixties that has already been scheduled as year's Trojan Record Store Day vinyl album. Unfortunately Record Store Day rules prevent the announcement of any details until nearer the date, but I can confidently state that it'll definitely be well worth the wait!

Releases aside, a number of high-profile events with which Trojan will be associated are in the pipeline, while plans are afoot to work with new partners to produce new ranges of Trojan-branded merchandise.

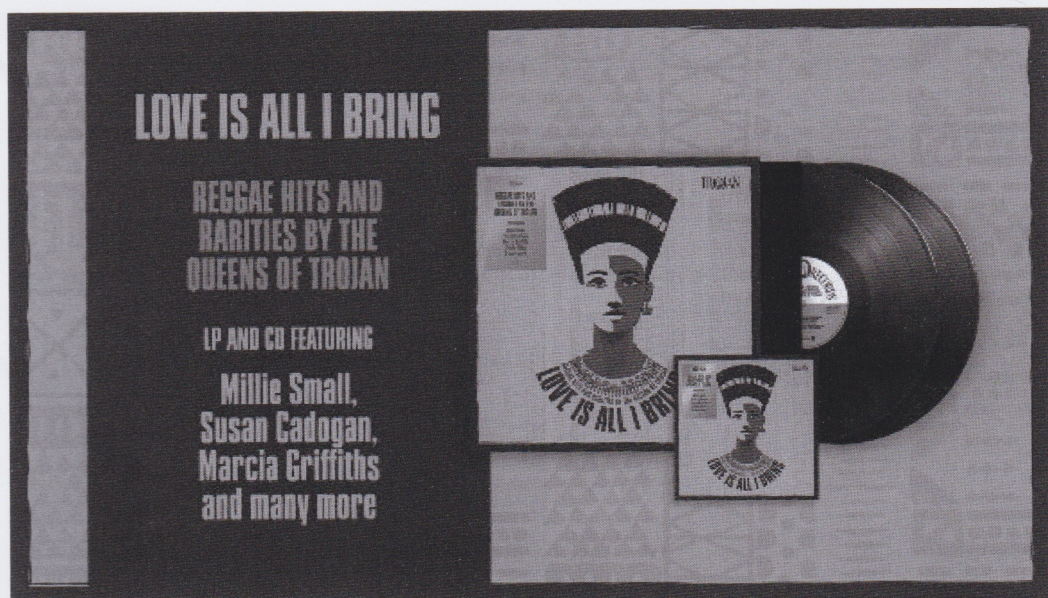
In the meantime, we're hopeful 'Rudeboy: the Story of Trojan Records' will become even more widely available following the documentary's long-awaited non-cinematic screenings on Sky Arts (in the UK) and Breaker (elsewhere in the world) in October. As for if and when the documentary will make its way onto DVD, we're hoping to announce something VERY soon!

Before signing off, I'd just like to thank all those who have bought the 'Story of Trojan' coffee table book, (which I hope was enjoyed) and mention that stock is now beginning to run low, which is great news, although with no new future printings planned, those considering forking out their hard-earned dosh for a copy might want to consider nabbing a copy while they're still widely available.

And finally, don't forget you can always keep up with all the latest news on Trojan, Doctor Bird and Music On Vinyl by tuning in to the 'Trojan Tighten Up Show' for Soho Radio, broadcast live every fourth Monday between 2pm and 4pm, and available thereafter on Mixcloud. It's well worth a listen – most of the time!

Merry Christmas!

Laurence @ Trojan Records





I stumbled on this band by accident or destiny, whichever way you want to look at it. While staying in Madrid I visited the legendary, Liquidator Record store. As I picked few items, I was told of a single release party that was happening just around the corner in a bar. My daughter was not impressed as we hot footed our way through the back streets of Madrid to find the bar. Upon arrival there were a smattering of skins and ska aficionados, standing outside the bar as Toni spun the tunes.

As everything in Spain, nothing seems to start properly till after 9pm. We were early but the bar was still bubbling with excitement. I purchased a single and got a free drink in the bargain. I introduced myself to a few members of the band and briefly chatted about the release and the ska scene. Alas my daughter had finished her drink and wanted to call it a day, so we bid our farewell.

I had to wait a few days, until I got home to spin the single and what a single. It blew me away, I spun it on the radio show and the feedback was immense. I reviewed the single in the last issue and it seemed fitting to have an interview with the band. I hope we will see and hear more of this great Spanish band in the future.

The Mighty Megatons are made up of members from different bands; can you introduce yourselves and what bands you are from? And how the Mighty Megatons can about?

Rudy: Mighty Megatons started in 2018 and we are Tuco (Drums), Franco (Bass), Pablo (Piano & Organ), Javier (Lead Guitar), Viti (tenor sax), Mono (Trombone), Martin (Trumpet) and myself, Rudy King (Rhythm Guitar and singer). We came from a lot of different bands from the last twenty years, maybe too many to mention but I will try my best.

Tuco used to play with a Reggae band called Tasty Grooves Javi and him played with the Phoenix City All Stars last year at the LISF. Javi also plays currently with Forward Ever Band which usually works as backing band for Roots Reggae artists in several Spanish festivals. He has also made a solo album alla Ernest Rangling as Javier Martin Boix. Mono played in a Ska band called The Ministers of



Ronsteady and he also played with Laurel Aitken & Skarlatines back in the 90's. Viti and Franco came from several projects playing Soul, Jazz, R&B. Martin played a short time with Los Granadians and currently works with the boogaloo/latin soul singer



Tito Ramirez. Pablo currently plays with Mango Wood and The Hypochondriacs who played at London International Ska Festival a couple of years back by the way.... I've sing almost 9 years with a Rocksteady band called Smooth Beans, and before that, long time ago, I used to play guitar with The Crabs Corporation, an Skinhead Reggae band from my hometown, Buenos Aires (Argentina).

Your First Single Has received some great reviews, how do you feel about this?

Rudy: It feels really great, "Atomic Bomb" sales are going well, especially in places like the UK and Japan which is not a common thing for a Spanish band. I'm not going to say something new with this but the last fifteen-twenty years were real hard for the bands in order to make a name for themselves, make records and concerts. So, it is truly important for us that people from the scene support what we are doing, because it's the music that we all love. The one who changed, our lives when we were youngsters.

Both tracks of the single have a real authentic sound how did you achieve this? As you have caught, the raw essence of the sound.

Rudy: Glad you mention this, all what you've said is what we were looking too accomplished. We want to make records that sound like the ones we love, easy as that. I'm also the producer of the single and I can tell you that there's no secret in what we made. We recorded in Tucxone studio which is known for the old school equipment they have and the really good sound engineers. In top of that, we did the session playing all together in the same room with two microphones from the 50's and a tape recorder from the 60's. Just like the vast majority of records we all love and collect.



Are there plans for an album

Rudy: We are planning to record a new Megatons single during October, in two weeks. Same formula, one instrumental, one vocal. This one is going to be released by Liquidator Music at the beginning of 2020. Apart from that, we are finishing an album with Roy Panton & Yvonne Harrison, the Jamaican duet. Which is quite an experience, let me tell you. They are lovely people and, of course, great artists. Work with them is a blessing, you know. I had the "This is Ska" VHS back in the 90's when I was a teenager and about twenty years later we are doing an album together. It's like... Really? Come on!

Live you have been Backing Alpheus, how has this collaboration came about and how has it gone?

Rudy: We recorded on the phone a rehearsal when we started to put the band together and I've forwarded that to Toni Face from Liquidator Music and he really liked what he heard. Two weeks later he offer us to back Alpheus in Madrid four months later, so we started to rehearse really hard because we knew that it was a great responsibility because it was the "Light of Day" album launch show. That was our first gig as Mighty Megatons. We made a great relationship with Alpheus, we played about five shows together after that. Currently we are the band for his shows in Spain. He is a great singer and also a good friend.



Have you backed anyone else?

Rudy: yes, we did a couple of shows with Roy Ellis in September, which is always a great experience. I've played before with him in a few Spanish radio shows and at a French festival with a band called The Music Doctors back in 2015. Roy is a lovely person and one of the greatest performers I've ever seen on the stage. He is truly The Boss. Now we are getting ready for a show with Keith & Tex on December.

You have played a number of festivals in Spain how have they been and how was the band received?

Rudy: We've played in a few festivals, yes. I think people on those festivals enjoyed a lot of the shows. Keep in mind that usually, is not the regular ska/reggae audience, it's a wider audience at those festivals. Of course, they like the Jamaican music but it's not the usual people you see in a small concert or dj parties in the city every week. When these people contact with a band, in a larger stage and with a really big sound, I think they are surprised and love it.

I prefer to see shows at small venues by far, with people that are really involved with the music and all that but as a musician I've learned to enjoy every kind of audience and give my best to them.

Are there any plans to play in the UK, perhaps at the London Ska Festival?

Rudy: We've not received any offers from the UK until now. We would love to go there, really. Fingers crossed!

What is the ska scene like in Spain /Madrid at the moment, as there are some great bands laying down some great skinhead reggae and Ska tunes in the authentic way?

I think that is pretty much the same as the rest of Europe right now. There are not too many young people involved on the scene, the average age is 35 years old and it's important to have fresh blood, you know. On the other hand, in the last two years, I'm surprised with the Basque country because there are plenty of young people interested on the music and the fashion, they look for the rarest records and all that, plenty of parties and concerts. So, we need to keep working to make more things, and hopefully to draw more people to the best ever culture.

What other Spanish Bands could you suggest my readers check out ?

Rudy: There are plenty of bands in Spain playing old school Ska Rocksteady Reggae, you should check: Transilvanians, Smooth Beans, Cabrians, Skabidean from the Basque Country, Mango Wood, Sustraian, Bandits, Los Dorados, Magnetophones, The Crepitans.

Have You Anything else to say to my readers?

Rudy: First of all, thanks for still buying fanzines like this and support the scene. We hope to have the opportunity in a not to distant future to play for you in the UK. You can get our 7" Atomic Bomb at www.liquidatormusic.com Nuff Respect.

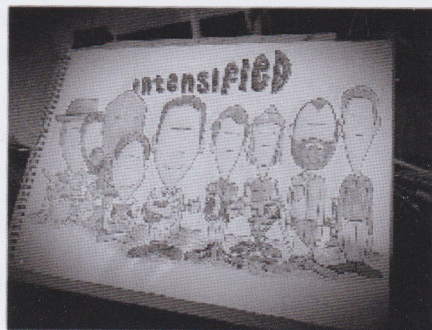
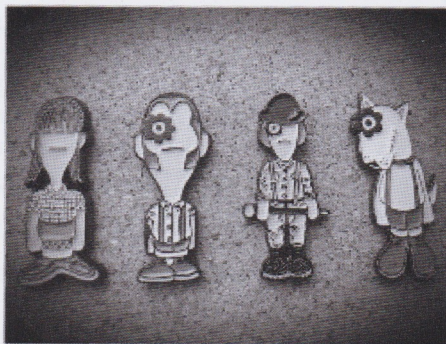
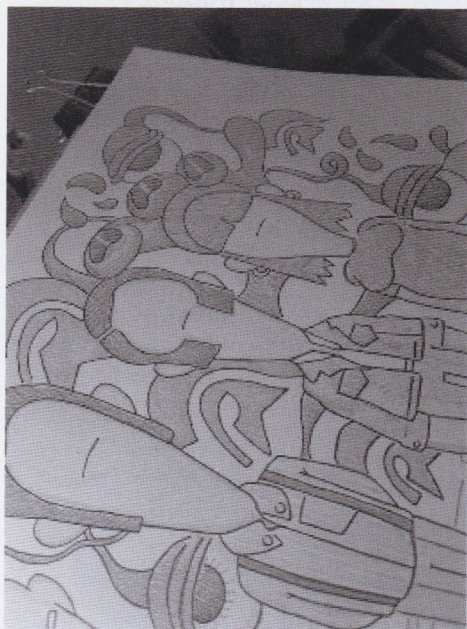


Retro Culture

Retro Culture is a Facebook page, ran by the very talented Lee Castle, who was my partner in crime on the Ska Shack radio station and who still dj's out at Ska shack do's. Lee has always been a great artist, but had never really found his flow until he started doing pen and pencil drawings of his skinhead friends.

Starting out doing A4 caricatures, he slowly developed a distinct style.

Lee then started to draw iconic scenes of his home town Margate, as well Skinheads, Mods, Casuials, Football heroes and film characters in A4 and A3 sizes. Lee also produces enamel badges of some of his favourite drawings, which go down well with his customers. Lee has spoken about producing a comic type book, but this is yet to see the light of day. With Lee's drawing style they are sure to be a collector's item of the future. If you fancy picking up one of Lee's original drawings, or want to ask about a commission, contact Retroculture on Facebook





BOVVER ROCK

I was a bit of a late starter with this band, I can't quite remember when I first heard them, I think it was via a youtube link. I seem to remember picking up their single at Oi! The Shop along with some Crown Court stuff. I loved their sound, a mix of street punk and proto Oi!. But it was their debut album that blew me away, it had everything. Its rare to like an album

from beginning to end these days and its been a long time since I've had that tingly feeling of excitement about the sound. The last time I had it was with Rancid and before that The Clash. "Diamond in the Rough" was a great album. Two years on they have done it again and their latest offering, "This is the sound" suffers no second album blues. It's catchy Bovver Rock at its best. So I tracked down Tom the man behind the band and asked him a few questions.

With some members of the band already playing in Street Punk Oi! bands can you tell my readers a bit about them, How Did the idea of a bovver Rock band come about ?

When I first started Hard Wax I was playing in Arch Rivals and had a studio project, Hostile Minds. Arch Rivals was more the melodic end of oi so Hostile Minds was my own take on a bit of the rougher sound of 80s oi. I was in recording some HM tracks and had a couple of more glam / bovver rock tracks in my head that didn't fit either band so laid them down just to see what it would sound like. I didn't actually mix them until about 6 months later when I thought I may as well finish them so sent them to Pat Collier who got them sorted. I didn't really think anyone would be that fussed about them but put the track 'Kings of the Weekend' on YouTube. The response was unbelievable, people seemed to really like it including Rebellion Records who released it on 7 inch backed with the other





track 'Unstoppable.' So it wasn't really intentional to start a band, it just came about initially to release those two songs. I really enjoyed writing in that style so decided to write an album which ended up as Diamond in the Rough.

I've read somewhere that you play all the instruments on the the new lp "This Is The sound" and most on the first Lp

"Diamond in the rough", that's some talent so how did this come about, were you taught or did you learn yourself? I also heard you played in a Ska punk band is here any truth in that.

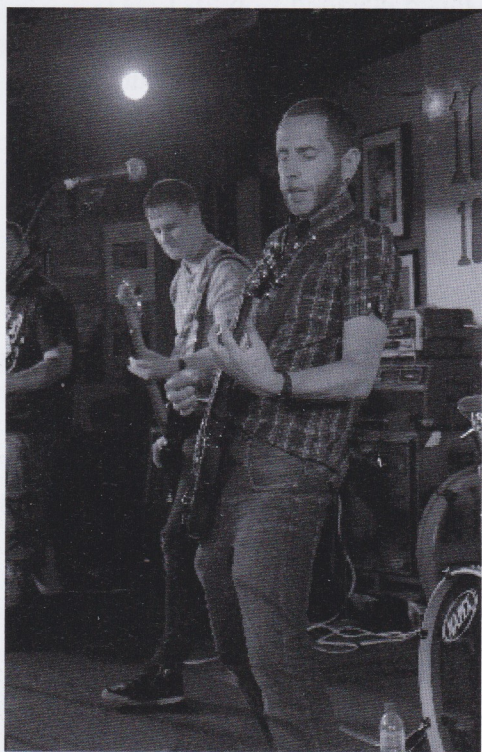
The new album is all recorded by me with a guitar on one track from Tom Murphy who is now in the band full time) and a little guitar squeal from the old bassist Matt. Andrew 'Doc Collins, who is the studio man for Hard Wax also helped out with some backing vocals and hand claps but I found it a lot easier just to do all myself as I knew how I wanted the songs to sound. It was a similar story was all the other tracks before the new album apart from bass which was played by Matt Couch. I love the process of building a track slowly and is really satisfying when it's finished. That said, now there is a full band on board, I expect newer songs may be more of a combined effort. In regards to playing, apart from a few guitar lessons when I was pretty young, I have just picked things up as I went along. If I saw an instrument I wanted to play, I would find the cheapest way of getting hold of one and then starting teaching myself. I have no real musical knowledge but it seems to have been ok so far! I did used to play in a ska punk band called NoComply for a few years, mainly touring in the UK, was great fun. I also used to play in a ska band called Too Hot, and plenty of other bands in various styles of music over the years. It's all been a great learning curve which is led me to where i am now with how I approach my music.

Is It difficult, putting the songs together when playing the instruments yourself,



do you lay do a rhythm track first? Explain to my readers how you go about it ?
Can you hear each instrument in your head?

With recording, I find it a really easy process now that I have been recording Hard Wax for quite a while. I have a great engineer / mixer in Doc who for me has been a big part of achieving the Hard Wax sound. We always start with basic tracks on guitars to get the drums recorded and from there it is a case of gradually



building it up. My favourite part is when I start to add backing vocals, claps, keys, brass and any other little bits as the tracks start to go towards the finished sound. Some tracks I have a real clear idea in my head of how it needs to sound but other parts, especially some if the lead guitar I will write on the spot. There are some tracks that sound great in my head but just didn't work when I recorded them so it was back to the drawing board and completed rewrote 2 or 3.

Do you think there is a bovver Rock scene in the UK? What bands influence Hard Wax?

I think there is a lot of people who are really into the bovver rock sound / style in the UK and bands like Giuda have shown there is a healthy scene made of different kinds of people. It seems to attract skins, punks, glam rockers and all

sorts in between. I think when there are more bovver rock shows over here because of the limited amount it becomes more of an event which gets everyone together.

I have such a wide ranging taste in music that it all comes together when i write, especially with Hard Wax. There is the glam side influenced by the likes of Slade but I think the main influences are still some of the earlier Oi! bands like Cocksparrer where there was a real good sing along element to the song. The newer wave of bovver / glam like Giuda and Suede Razors also gave a good influence in terms of how that older sound can be updated and still having that rougher edge.





When You play out, it more to an Oi! Street Punk crowd, How well are you received ? And have you ever done any bovrer rock gigs?

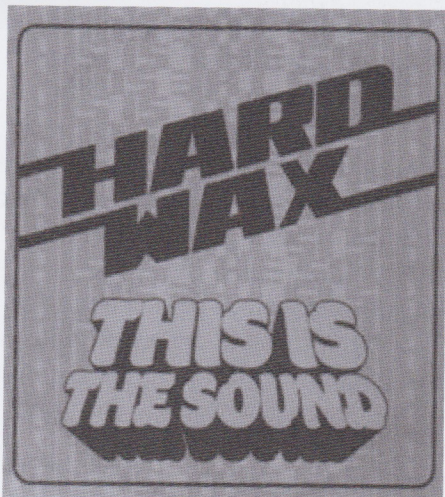
If so what is the different between the crowds? As we have only played a total of 3 shows (including 2 this weekend) it's hard to say in terms of the crowd. We do have a great following in the skinhead scene but it also seems to cross over to have a much broader appeal. We are playing some shows with Giuda in January so it will be interesting to see what the mix of the crowd is like in more of a bovrer rock show. I think you are on the money with the people you saw at the Giuda show, I think it is coming out of just the Oi! / punk scene and developing it's own following again. The shows we did were oi / punk but the feedback we got was amazing. It's helpful to stand out on a bill when you have a different sound . The next few years will be interesting to

see if the resurgence of this kind if music which has a big 70s feel continues.

You first Release "Kings Of The weekend" seemed to catch everyone off guard a proto Oi classic in the making. Did this spurn you on to make the album "Diamond in the rough" ?

The success of Kings came out of nowhere, I just thought it would be fun to see how more tracks turned out. As I started getting further along with the album, I got more excited myself about where it could go. So Kings was a massive spur for me , and I wanted to try and make an album of songs that sounded bigger than the first single. I was really pleased with how the album came out. Matt and I put a lot of work in, fine tuning little bits and adding ideas like brass and even a little sample on one track. It was the most fun I had recording and was proud if the finished product. Again the reaction was unbelievable, it was totally unexpected and still gives me a real sense of pride and achievement. Looking back I wouldn't change anything sound wise but there are a couple of tracks that I am not as keen on now but I think it gave me a clear direction for the latest album on ensuring that I was happy with all the finished tracks.





Its been two years since your last release, was there any reason for this?

I took a bit of a break from everything music wise for a little bit. I have some on going health issues and at the time was feeling really unwell, pretty burned out in general and didn't have the drive to be playing or writing. Although Hard Wax had some great opportunities lined up at the time, I feel it was the right decision. The break has got me more fired than I have ever been now to write and start playing live again and hopefully that came through on the new album.

This is the sound is your latest album which features some bovver rock classics in the making and some great proto Oi! tracks. What influences you when writing the tunes, and which is your favourite on the album.?

I think again with this album there was no obvious influences in terms of bands, more of the kind of sound I was after. I added lots of keys and organ to try to give it more of a 70s feel but with the big sound that I like to hear myself in recordings. The main focus was on writing songs that I was happy with and that everyone could almost be a stand alone track. I try to write with the idea that an album is all potential singles and no filler! My favourite on the album is definitely the title track This is the Sound, I was so happy to get the stomping feel of the chorus, everything I had in my head came out of the speakers. It's now the one to top the I am writing new tracks!



It seems today that the street punk scene is more European based, eg the record companies and Gigs, would you agree with this. (I say this because I remember releases coming out on Link, Captain Oi! and step one records)

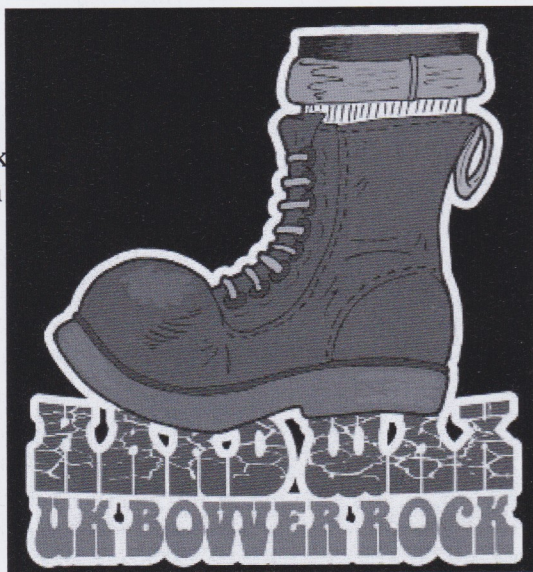
There is definitely a big oi / punk scene in Europe, the festivals and the small club shows seem to be well attended and some of the bigger labels are over there. I think the UK is trying to get more of that going on, there are some great promoters here who work hard to keep the scene going and some cracking gigs. It does seem a younger crowd abroad so it would be good to see a more youthful scene coming thorough in the UK. It's a amazing experience playing in Europe, the people and promoters really make you feel at home so I guess that's why a lot of us play more in Europe than the UK.

Your playing a few live shows how did the current line up come about? How did the shows go down?

I decided to put together a live band again when I was recording the album. When I took the break I told myself I was done with gigging but once I started recording again I wanted to get out and play the songs live. I had known Paul Bond (drums) for a while so started out practising with him. I then got my good mate Tom Murphy on board on lead guitar. I have played in various bands with Tom over the years, he's a great guitarist and top guy so seemed the obvious choice. The last piece in the puzzle was bass and we were struggling to find someone suitable until Tom and I started jamming with Matt (Colton) for a new band called Riot City Radio. I asked him if he'd be interested in playing in Hard Wax and he was up for it. Matt also is a great vocalist so has been a great addition on backing vocals. We played our first two shows together were this weekend and went really well, feedback has been positive and crowd reaction in Hamburg was quality with people singing along.

Have you anything else to say to my readers?

Thanks for the interview mate, we'll hopefully see some new faces next year when we're out gigging.

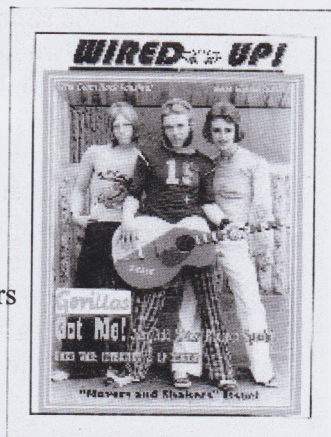


BOVVER ROCK

Wired Up Glam Rock Zine Issue 11

This issue sees a change in size, it's now down to a 20-page colour A4 zine. Featuring articles on Just Add Water record label, a Hard Wax Interview and a great piece on "Suits and Platform Boots" website. As well as reviews and news from the glam front. This is the movers and shakers issue and is well worth picking up.

Contact wiredupfanzine@gmail.com for more info.

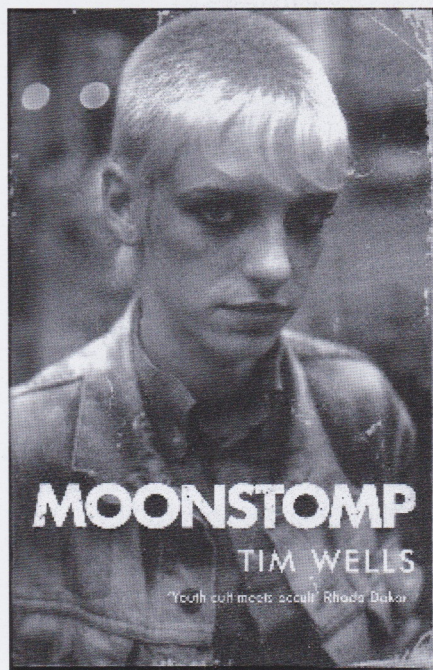


Hard Wax - 100 Club - 6th September

The 100 Club in London, Oxford St seems to be the main hub for Street Punk and Glam. The Venue fits the bill perfectly, just the right size and filled with history. Put on by Human Punk, the line up for the night is Angry Itch, Jack The Lad, Hard Wax and Peter And The Test Tube Babies. Unfortunately, due to train requirements, I had to leave before the test tubes played. Angry Itch was first on stage, this three piece from Birmingham play with an America Punk feel and they laid down some great tunes. They were quickly followed by Jack The Lad, a five piece hailing from East Anglia,

playing straight forward street punk with a couple of covers throw in from the Business and Cocksparrer. Knitting it all together were a couple of DJ's playing punk on original vinyl. It was good to hear some great punk tunes, many of which I have neglected and left to gather dust on the shelf.

Next up was the band I was waiting for. This was only their second live show and the lads had to take to the stage with a replacement drummer, as their original got injured in a scooter accident. The boys streamed into their set, kicking off with "Have A Good Time", as the band started "Boys Are Back" they were in full swing, the nerves had fallen away and Hard Wax delivered. "Diamond in The Rough" followed and with the crowd behind them, they let fly. "Kings of The Weekend", "We are the Boys", "Move Your Feet", "This Sound" and they finished off with "Bootboy Stomp". A fantastic performance and I look forward to seeing them in the new year supporting Giuda.



Moonstomp by Tim Wells - Unbound Books

Since Richard Allen put pen to paper and wrote the skinhead books, we have been yearning for some pulp Skinhead action (that last bit sound like something from the back of a porn DVD). Richard Allen did miss the mark a bit as he was no skinhead, but he did become a cult sensation. Tim Wells, who I first met at a Redskins gig, is a larger than life Skinhead, nowadays he's a poet, plying his trade in trendy bars to bearded hipsters. But he has never lost his Skinhead roots and can still be spotted at Spitalfields record Fair, searching for reggae and soul vinyl. He has a blog called Stand Up and Spit, after the fanzine of the mid 80's and also produces the poetry zine Rising.

It was while out and about plying his trade, that he ended up having a drink with John Mitchinson,

who runs Unbound publishing. While chatting over drinks the conversation turned to pulp books and Tim's love of New English Library, the classic 70's pulp book publisher. Tim mentioned his idea for a book entitled Moonstomp about a skinhead werewolf. It was just a joke an idea running around in his head but John liked the idea and asked him if he could write it. The rest is history as they say.



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Cover photography: [illegible]
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TORPEDO



Musical Biscuits

Welcome to Musical Biscuits, this issue we have a gander at Torpedo Records, looking at singles that were not featured in Boss Sounds book which came out a few years ago.

Torpedo Records was founded by Eddy Grant of Equals fame, he was helped by Lambert Brisco who ran the Hot Rod Sound System out of Brixton. Originally it was going to be an underground blues label, but by the time of its first release it had become a reggae label aimed at the skinhead market. The first release left the presses in February 1970. It finished later that year but was resurrected in 1974. 27 singles were released in the first year with another that came out only as a white label. These aimed at the skinhead market, two having skinhead in the title and it's these that command the highest prices today.

From 1974, it's a mixed bag featuring Gregory Issacs, Ken Boothe and Johnny Osbourne. Most being re-issues including Baba Brook's "One Eyed Giant" which appears on a B side and does seem to be out of place. The big ones on the label are "Skinheads Don't Fear" Tor 5 and "Moonhop in London" Tor 10. But these are big money and are out of most people's pockets. It's best to pick up the early tunes if you're looking for stomping reggae and with the Hotrod all stars backing on a number of tunes, there are still a few to go for.

ReidsAllstarsHell 5 Torpedo Tor 23 B side

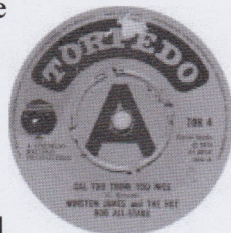
A fast fighting reggae tune, chunky bass line, it's skinhead reggae at its best.

I picked this up in the 80's from Oldies Unlimited, 50 reggae singles for a tenner, 20 of them were on the Torpedo label, but most were pretty bland. With Mafia on the A side, a great double sider.



Musical Biscuits

Winston James and the Hot Rod Allstars Gal I think your nice Tor 4 A side
Produced by Lambert Brisco a great producer of skinhead reggae
The Hot Rod All Stars featured some of the Cimarons. His tune
uses the great Jesse James riddim. The flip is a nice skinhead
reggae instrumental.



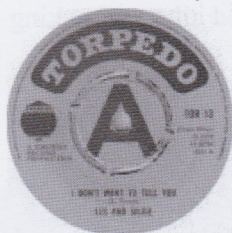
Winston James and the Hot Rod Allstars I May Never/ Longest Day TOR 6

I may never use the Pussy Got Nine lives riddim with Winston Groovy singing, it's a good sticky tune. On the flip is an organ driven instrumental that catches the skinhead reggae feel of the time.

Silkie Davis When I was a little Girl/ So lonely Tor 12
Torpedo's attempt at adding strings, lacks the edge needed. But "So Lonely" is a stomper, it's a duet with (I believe) Les Foster as he wrote the song and appears on my next choice.



Les and Silkie I don't want to tell you/ Denzil Denis Come on in Tor 13
Another duet from Silkie and Les, it's a plodder with violin backing, but still pulls people on the dance floor. On the B side is Denzil Denis Come on, which sounds like early reggae.



Betty Sinclair Why why why/ Hot Rod allstars Fist full of Dollars Tor 19

"Why Why Why cocky sweet boy" is the opening words of this rude reggae outing on Torpedo. It's another chugger that shows what British skinhead reggae is like, raw and edgy. The Hot Rod allstars "A fist Full of Dollars" is bland in places, a missed chance to have a great western tune.

Reviews



Zines

La Faute A Qui?

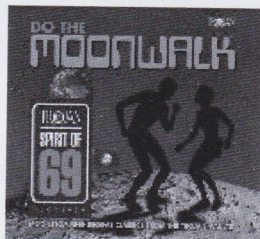
A French language A4 zine, featuring articles on the 2 Tone Club, Skinhead artist Alteau, the scene in Prague as well as a piece on the movie "Rollerball". As well as reviews of the latest releases of Punk Oi and ska as well as Skinhead Reggae. It's a well laid out and produced fanzine. It's good to see paper zines still pushing our scene along. For more info contact Lafauteaqui@wanadoo.FR

Riot 77 - Issue 21

An A4 punk zine that features some great articles, it's more of a magazine than a zine. Loads of info, including interviews with Tim Wells, Rose Tattoo and The Polecats as well as live, book, and record reviews. It's more for the Punk Oi! Boy readers, but it's a great zine from Ireland and well worth checking out if you're into that type of scene.



Music



Various Artists *Do The Moon Walk* Trojan TJD1039

20 tracks celebrating the 50th anniversary of the moon landings, featuring some well known tunes such as "MoonHop", "Skinhead Moonstomp" along with rare cuts such as "MoonShot", "Boss a Moon" and the unreleased King Horror Track "Creature On The Moon". A Good all round album with a host of rarer cuts.

Various Artists *Sock It To Me* Trojan TJD1038

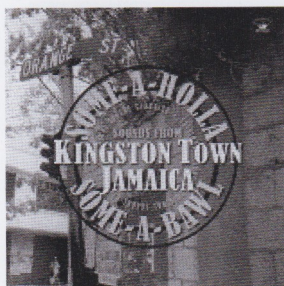
25 early reggae tunes, a great album of tracks that haven't seen the light of day since they were first released. I wouldn't say all of them are boss, but quite a few are, such as "Long About Now", "It's Your Thing" and "Israel". This album is a refreshing change of some unknown Trojan tunes.

Reviews

Music

Various Artists *Treasure Isle Ska Rarities* Trojan TJTCD0575

3CD's, 80 tracks, a mega collection of Treasure Isle ska featuring rare unreleased cuts as well as some better known tunes all be alternative takes. Once again Trojan are plundering the vaults and coming up trumps with some great tunes. This should be added to your collection.

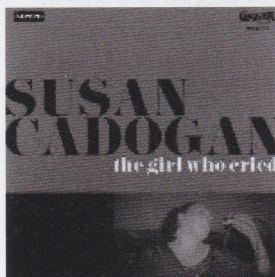


Various artists *Some-A-Holla, Some-A-Bawl, Sounds from Kingston Town* KSCD084

17 tracks featuring The Ravers, Ken Parker, Doreen Shaffer and Delroy Wilson. Released by Kingston Sounds so a Bunny Lee collection, each tune has its place and fits the mood of the album. Kicking off with "Matti and Futti" by the Ravers and "Lonely Lover" by the Sensations. A great collection from Kingston sounds.

Prince Fatty *In a Vipers Shadow* Evergreen Records

Prince fatty again brings his unique style to some old tracks and new. His mixing ability is second to none and with great versions of "Get Ready", "Everything Crash" as well as "Tonight". It also features versions of the "Break" and "Queen Of The Minstrel". Prince Fatty has done it again, great versions that will get you moving.



Susan Cadogan *The Girl Who Cried* Grover Records GRO-CD137

14 tracks of lovers type tunes, featuring tracks from the "Take Me Back" EP. The album is a combination of the last two years of Susan studio work and features "The Best Of Me" and "Lay Down beside me" which are the stand out tracks. A good mix of tunes which should grace anyone's collection.

Melodians _ *"Rivers of Babylon"* - Doctor Bird DBCD041

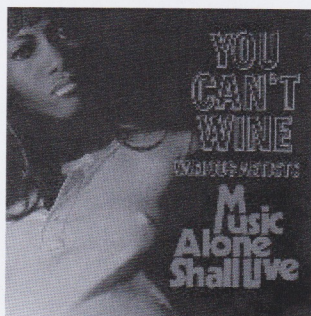
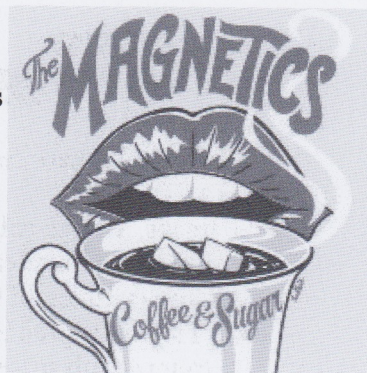
The band's debut album reissued on CD, featuring the original Jamaican release and the remainder of the bands recording on Leslie Kong's Beverly records. 25 tracks in all that will fill the gaps in your collection.

Music

The Magnetics *Coffee and Sugar* Grover Records GRO- CD138

14 cuts of jumpy ska, reggae and rocksteady.

At first I thought they were an American band as they reminded me of The Slackers. But this band hails from Italy and this album is a blinder, the title track "Coffee and Sugar" is a real stomper and will get you moving. Their cover of "Shake a Tail Feather" catches the tunes vibes, but with a ska feel. A brilliant album, it's well worth tracking down and adding to your collection. It's such a shame the UK isn't producing acts such as this.



Various Artists – "You Can't Wine/Music Alone Shall Live" - Doctor Bird DBCDD042

Two highly collectable Lp's on two CDs including bonus tracks and 57 tracks produced by Rupie Edwards. This CD collection features some classic Skinhead reggae tunes, including "Grand Father Clock", "Buttoo", "Chatty Chatty" and "Census Taker". A great collection that should grace any Skinheads shelf.

Various Artists -

"Put Your Dress On" - Doctor Bird DBCDD037

54 tracks over 2cd's from the Sonia Pottingers stable, mixing Ska and Rocksteady released between 1966-1968. Featuring some classic tunes like "Move Up", "Gun Fever" and "Stop The Violence". This CD features a number of tracks new to CD and with the price of vinyl shooting up, it's great to hear tunes I would not normally be able to enjoy, unless they are played out.

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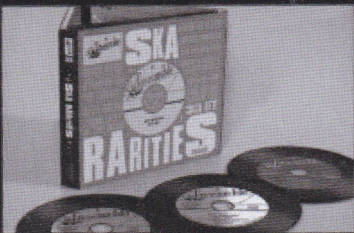
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